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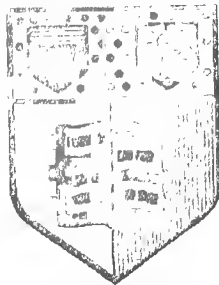
SARAWAK.

REPORT BY CONSUL-GENERAL USSHER.

1877



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SARAWAK.

Report by Consul-General Ussher on the present Condition of Sarawak

TERRITORY.

SARAWAK, or the territory now included under that general appellation, has a coast line direct of about 220 miles in length, taking it from Tanjong Datu, in latitude $2^{\circ} 5'$, to Tanjong Kidurong, in $3^{\circ} 10'$, north. Owing to its irregular character, deep bays and indentations, its actual extent may be calculated at 400 miles. The territorial area is supposed to comprise about 28,000 square miles, and extends a great distance into the interior, in easterly and north-easterly direction, probably as far as the head waters of the Rejang River. Its capital and seat of Government, with a population numbering 20,000, is called Kuching, and is on the Sarawak River, about 16 miles from the sea.

POPULATION.

It appears to be difficult to calculate the population of this large territory. Many tribes and races are found within its limits, Malays as well as Dyaks. The estimate arrived at by the Raja's Government is as follows:—

	Number.
Malays	60,000
Chinese	7,000
Milanaus	30,000
Sea Dyaks of the Batang Lupar and other rivers	90,000
Land Dyaks	35,000
Total	222,000

The sea Dyaks once formed the famous piratical tribes who in common with the Balanini and Illaunus once devastated the Archipelago; since their reduction and subjugation by Sir James Brooke they have proved to be amongst the staunchest and most loyal supporters of the Brooke dynasty, and are principally relied on as a local militia in case of trouble and danger. It was these tribes, once so sternly dealt with, that a few short years afterwards flew to the assistance of the late Raja, when he was surprised and forced to fly from Kuching, the capital, by the Chinese rebels, whom these wild warriors pursued with relentless ardour until the miserable remnant of the mutineers was enabled to seek a refuge in Dutch territory.

The Chinese in Sarawak are now an orderly and well-conducted community, and although many times more numerous than they were in those days, would never again dream of such a rash experiment as their outbreak of 1857. This conspiracy was supposed to have been incited principally by exaggerated news of English disasters in China, and to have had extensive ramifications elsewhere. The Government

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of Sarawak has since then instituted a heavy penalty against those taking part in a "huey" or secret Chinese society, the members of which in Sarawak, as in Singapore and Penang, are generally the instigators of riotous and rebellious conduct on the part of the Chinese. The recognised leader and active chief of a secret "huey" is liable to capital punishment by the law of Sarawak.

The Malays of Sarawak struck me as being a superior race to those of Brunei, although the latter set store by their purity of descent, and the former must be derived from the same stock. Many of the Sarawak Malay chiefs have pleasant faces, and exhibit an intelligence that has probably been called into existence by the active part they are permitted to take in the government of the country. The Malays are also traders and engaged in industrial pursuits.

The Dyaks appear to be steadily improving; their country, once a terror to strangers, as the land of head "hunters," is now orderly and safe for the most part, and their chiefs, as will be seen eventually, take an active part in the management of their own local affairs, and are subsidized and recognised by the general Government.

GOVERNMENT.

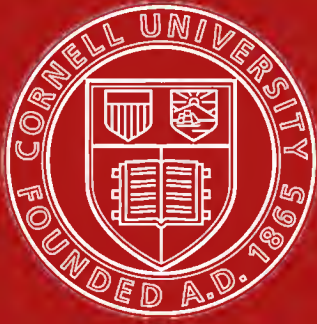
The Government of Sarawak may be termed a mild despotism, its arrangements being in their general features and effect not unlike the constitution of a crown colony. The Raja is of course the absolute head of the State, and he possesses the power analogous to but superior to that wielded by a colonial governor in a crown colony of spontaneous and independent action; this power is however rarely exercised, and for all practical purposes of local and general government he is assisted by a legislative council composed of two Europeans and five native Malay chiefs.

While the current business of the country is carried on by this body, a larger assembly is periodically held. This council is composed of the principal representatives, native as well as European, of the various districts, and in the ordinary course sits once in three years, except when specially summoned to discuss important and pressing business. It numbers between fifty and sixty members, nine-tenths of whom are natives. Any important change in the law or modification of native custom would be considered by the General Council and rejected or confirmed as occasion might suggest. Doubtless also all matters of general importance to the State would be discussed by this body.

The Executive Government is carried on by the Raja and his European officers, assisted by natives, members of both councils, and would appear to partake of the nature of a privy council.

The government of the various districts and out-stations, forts, and rivers is entrusted mostly to European officers, who are termed Residents; these are generally assisted by subordinate or Assistant Residents. There are also employed native or Eurasian and Chinese clerks, who act as writers, accountants, interpreters, &c., at each station.

The number of the European staff is as follows:—



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	Number.
Divisional Residents	2
2nd class „	4
Assistant „	3
Magistrates	2
Commandant at Kuching	1
Treasurer „	1
Medical officer „	1
Junior and subordinate officers in training for higher posts	5
Total	19

There are also the commander and officers of the Raja's guuboaht "Aline."

The native staff of paid chiefs and members of council consists of twenty-two in all, who are distributed as under—

	Number.
At Kuching	5
Ladong and Lundu	3
Batang Lupar	3
Rejang	3
Muka	3
Bintulu	2

There are no fixed regulations as to promotion, and the salaries are of a modest description.

LAWS AND CUSTOMS.

The greater portion of the Sarawak law, especially as regards social matters, such as divorce, inheritance, marriage, &c., is, as might reasonably be expected, unwritten. It is administered principally with the assistance of native authorities properly versed in the traditions governing their social code, and handed down to them under a patriarchal system, but altered from time to time by the Europeans and natives governing the country to suit, as well as may with safety be attempted, the increased scale of civilization progressing steadily among the native inhabitants of Sarawak.

The criminal law is framed and generally administered upon the basis of English law. Special enactments are in some cases made to meet the particular circumstances of the country and people, and considerable freedom is necessarily permitted to those administering it, avoiding for the present the technicalities of a regularly framed code, and as a rule the discretion thus extended to the administrators of the law does not appear to be abused; moreover, most decisions of importance come under the notice of the Raja, who himself administers justice in the Supreme Court of Kuching in patriarchal fashion, assisted and backed by European and native assessors.

The courts of first instance are three in number: one for criminal cases, presided over by the Resident of each district; one for social matters, as divorce, matrimonial disputes, &c., presided over by native judges (members of council); and a petty debt court, or Court of Requests. From the two first of these courts appeals lie to the Raja in the Supreme Court in Kuching, or when the Supreme Court is held in the districts, to the Divisional Residents, who are also the presiding judges thereof.

This Supreme Court appears also to take initiatory cognizance of all serious criminal offences, such as murder, forgery, arson, &c.

No sentence of death may be carried out without the confirmation of the Raja, to whom the evidence is submitted.

Appeals from the Court of Requests lie to a full bench of magistrates of not less than four in number.

Besides these regular centres of jurisdiction the distant tribes of Dyaks and others are permitted to elect their own chiefs of villages, or "long houses," who may settle petty cases, receive trifling fines, which are limited in amount, and do other little acts of justice, for which they are held responsible; but any case of importance must be referred to the established courts.

The most important of the native customs, which is against our ideas of humanity and justice, the institution of slavery, has been reduced to the narrowest limits than can at present be safely reached. The Sarawak Government appears to act wisely under the circumstances in which it finds itself situated with regard to this custom; unable summarily to abolish it, but prudently recognizing its existence, instead of pretending to ignore it, the Government has grasped the nettle, and by gradually surrounding it and hedging it with prohibitory and doubtless obstructive regulations, is taking the best means to effect its eventual extirpation. The export and import of slaves is peremptorily forbidden under severe penalties, and is conscientiously checked. But lately the Raja fined and drove out a Brunei chief of importance, who was convicted of an attempt at this serious offence.

The first important feature of the slave regulations is this: that under ordinary circumstances any slave may work out his own freedom, by paying to his master a comparatively low amount, which any bondsman, I should think, could raise if he desired his liberty; 6*l.* sterling seems to have been the sum originally fixed by the law, but I do not know if this is the limit; and female slaves and children are less weighted. One good point resulting from the general tenor of the slavery laws is, that a man who has so worked out his freedom will in most cases highly value it, and prove a steadier and more beneficial member of society than one of a rack of idle, dishonest, and ignorant savages, suddenly set free without a proper appreciation of the value of liberty, with no sense of responsibility, and not possessing the power of utilizing his precious possession. Without controverting the great principle of the right of freedom inherent in every man, the results of a sudden and total abolition are, as we have reason to know, generally disastrous for a long period.

The regulations respecting immoralities between masters and female slaves are of the strictest description. Any woman slave, with whom her master has had intercourse, becomes *ipso facto* free. Special exemptions also are made with regard to the offspring of such connexions, although in this respect, and as regards the children of bondsmen generally, some improvement will, I trust, be effected as soon as prudently may be.

No slave can be transferred without the full privity and consent thereto of the local court, before which the transaction must take place and be duly registered. Certain classes of slaves become *ipso facto* free by lapse of time, or from neglect of the owner to claim them.

A distinction is made between outdoor and indoor slaves, in favour of the former; these may be looked upon as partaking of the character of the serfs in feudal times, and would appear to be specially benefited by the rule as to lapse of time mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

Maltreatment of slaves is severely punished, at times to the extent of manumission by the court having the power of liberating such maltreated slaves.

To quote from the works of an officer of the Sarawak Government:—

"In Sarawak any sudden steps to abolish slavery could not have been carried out without giving offence to the native chiefs, on whose good-will the Government, especially at the outset, had much to depend. However, the system relating to slavery, that was then organized, and which has been steadily pursued, has been successful in leading to a decrease of the evil, especially in preventing masters from holding and wielding unjust and cruel power; and the natives are finding out that slave labour is not equal to free labour, and the latter is very perceptibly taking the place of the former."

And again I may cite the words of the present ruler of Sarawak, addressed to his Residents in an exhaustive circular on this subject in 1868, before his accession to the Raj:—

"The Tuan Muda wishes to express his opinion that this a very important question, which involves much that might raise the prejudices and antipathies of the chiefs and all those who possess slaves; he thinks if the custom were discussed publicly, with a view to bringing about reforms to ameliorate slavery, that such a discussion would have a contrary effect, and cause masters to bring claims (in most cases just ones) against people who have been slaves, but who have been living comfortably, and to all intents and purposes independently, for many years past.

"Such reforms as are requisite the Tuan Muda thinks had better be quietly and gradually brought about in conjunction with the chiefs themselves, rather than permit the question to become a public one; as in the majority of cases the master would be a gainer and the slave a loser, were the question so raised as to cause the masters to put in their claim."

To summarise the general tendency of the Sarawak laws and regulations respecting slavery is to abolish the system gradually and effectively without disturbance, to face a social evil, and by recognizing it to reduce it within the narrowest limits, pending its total abolition.

The power of England has it always unquestionably within its means summarily to abolish such an evil within its dependencies; nevertheless, the system of pawns and domestic slavery was allowed to exist for many years on the Gold Coast, under the flags of her forts. It is therefore not to be wondered at that Sarawak has to be cautious, depending as she so much does upon native good-will, and being without the reserve of strength and prestige of a strong power before she attempts any wholesale legislation in direct contravention of all present and past local feeling and custom; and she acts wisely, in my opinion, in gradually inducing her subjects by an appeal, or rather by frequent appeals to their own interest and right feeling, of their own free will to allow this ancient but indefensible custom to drop quietly out of her records.

Much of the local legislation is marked by sound sense; for instance, the treatment of imprisoned debtors appears to be right and sensible. Every debtor confined in prison can, if he likes, work for the Government, receiving a fixed monthly wage for his labour. Half of these earnings may go to the creditor, the other half he retains for his personal use. In case of his leaving a wife and family on the hands of the public, the latter half is transferred towards their support. This arrangement cannot take place without the joint consent of debtor and creditor.

I believe that the Contagious Diseases Act, or one akin thereto, is in force in Kuching.

The laws regarding the habit of the Chinese in seeking intercourse with girls of immature age are also strictly enforced.

All native marriages to be lawful must be effected before a civil registrar.

Questions of divorce, marriage, inheritance, &c., are referred to native courts competent to deal with such matters.

Coroners are appointed in the principal centres.

Capital crimes are tried by a mixed jury; British or other European subjects guilty of heinous crimes are tried by a jury of Europeans, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul having the right to be present. In cases of Europeans seriously maltreating or murdering a native, one-half, or at least one-third of the jury is to consist of natives.

The land regulations are useful and present no peculiar features.

The law of bankruptcy appears to have been in some measure assimilated to the English law.

MILITARY FORCE.

The permanent military force of Sarawak consists of a well-drilled and effective body of men termed the "Sarawak Rangers"; they number about 200, and are well-made and of powerful physique, being mainly recruited from the Dyaks, whose beauty of form, united with their strength and activity, is rarely to be surpassed. They are neatly dressed in white tunics and trousers, with black braid ornaments, and are armed with the Snider carbine.

The forts at the outstations are massive wooden structures, armed with a few smooth-bore guns of old pattern, and each fort is manned by about a dozen "fortmen," whose duty it is to garrison and defend the work. They are mostly occupied by the European officers of the districts, and are fourteen in number. They are quite efficient against native attack. Some of them are placed in sole charge of natives.

The militia, which constitutes the real force of Sarawak in the hour of danger, is composed of all the able-bodied men in the tribes of the Batang Laper, Sarebas and other sea Dyaks; of the same tribes in fact, the subjugation of whom, by the late Sir James Brooke, and their transformation into defenders of their country, from their former occupation of blood thirsty pirates, was the subject of so much misunderstanding in England, and the cause of much undeserved animadversion on a high-spirited and humane ruler.

These people could turn out about 25,000 warriors, who are ready to assemble at the summons of the Government, and devote themselves to its defence.

They are in various ways specially favoured, in consideration of their services, such as receiving whole or in some cases partial exemption from the capitation tax.

The naval force of Sarawak comprises the gun-boat "Aline," a fine vessel; a screw steamer of about 250 tons burden; and two heavy river steam launches, the "Glita" and the "Firefly."

PUBLIC WORKS.

Besides the forts the most striking buildings are the "Astana," or residence of the Raja at Kuching, a handsome and well ordered dwelling, replete with every comfort, and surrounded with tastefully laid out grounds.

The court house, a solid and handsome building in plain style, is also at Kuching, as well as a fort, barracks, and a prison. Of these the fort is being rebuilt and enlarged, and the prison is undergoing altera-

tions and improvements. Several new roads, of good construction, are being cut through the forest in different directions from Kuching; one of these will open up a communication with the province of Upper Sarawak. The principal means of communication, however, lie in the numerous rivers and streams intersecting the country.

SHIPPING.

Besides the gun-boats already mentioned there are two trading steamers belonging to the port of Kuching, the "Raja Brooke" and the "Royalist," of 254 and 151 tons burthen respectively.

The remaining tonnage of Sarawak, which is principally native owned, is composed of schooners and small coasting craft, 130 of which belong to Kuching; the others belong to other ports, and are apparently not registered at the seat of Government. They belong to people at Muka, Bintulu, Sibul, and other places.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The chief native products of Sarawak are as follows:—

Raw sago, sago flour, pearl sago, antimony (sulphide, regulus, and oxide), quicksilver, gold, coal, timber, gutta-percha, india-rubber, cocoanuts, rice, dammar, diamonds, canes, and dye-woods.

The imports consist mostly of opium, salt, tobacco, cloth, crockery, and brass ware.

On comparing the returns attached to this report some of the exports for 1876, especially for jungle produce, are considerably in diminution of those of 1871. This is especially noticeable in the articles, under the head of foreign exports of gutta-percha, india-rubber, birds nests, and antimony. These jungle products are getting gradually worked out in the neighbourhood of the province of Sarawak Proper; and the natives are now turning their attention, owing to the special encouragement of the Raja, to agricultural industry. Popper and gambier are now being largely cultivated, and the results are not yet sufficiently large to show the improvement expected, but which a few years will probably develop. The natives will then, while not neglecting the various sources of wealth lying easy to their hands, not have to rely solely on them for their prosperity, but on the more stable and solid fruits of their own industry.

But the corresponding statements of 1871 and 1876 nevertheless point to a steady improvement in trade, and the territory can show exports during the past year, foreign and coastwise, amounting to more than 250,000*l.* sterling; the imports being but little under that amount.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

I have not been furnished with any returns of the expenditure of Sarawak, and it is possible that the Government may not have been in a position to supply accurate information under this head, owing to a radical change which has lately taken place in the method of keeping accounts of the Raj.

The revenue amounted in 1871 to 157,501 *dol.*, and in 1876 to 183,182 *dol.*, showing a decided although not large increase during the five years.

It is principally derived from farms, such as opium, arrack, pawn-broking, &c. Gambling farms are still permitted.

An important item is furnished by the royalties on minerals; antimony bringing in the largest share.

The exemption tax is of 2 dol. per man, paid by the Malays; those serving in the militia are free.

The Dyak tax is a capitation tax of 3 dol. per family; those liable to military service are exempted in part. Bachelors pay half the tax. It is probable that this tax can be but partially collected.

The remaining revenue is made up from customs duties, both export and import, the former being a small impost on raw jungle produce. Manufactured produce is not weighted. A portion of the revenue is also derived from land and township lots.

PUBLIC DEBT.

In the absence of specific information on this point I can only state that I believe the public debt to consist of a considerable sum of money, which was advanced from his private fortune by the late Raja, Sir James Brooke, and which now forms a mortgage or first charge upon the public assets of Sarawak.

ECCLIASTICAL.

There is but one mission in Sarawak, the English Protestant Mission, sent out by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. It is presided over by the Right Reverend Dr. Chambers, who is Bishop of Labuan, Sarawak, and Singapore. It numbers about six members, scattered over the territory. Its efforts do not appear to have been attended with marked success, the number of converts being stated as but few. Each mission station has a school attached to it.

EDUCATIONAL.

The Sarawak Government has three Government schools at present, two in Kuching and one in Upper Sarawak. I have no statistics concerning them.

GENERAL GEOGRAPHICAL AND PHYSICAL FEATURES.

Sarawak may be described for the most part as an extensive and dense forest, intersected in every direction by rivers and streams, and traversed in some parts by lofty mountain ranges. These streams form natural waterways, and in great part take the place of roads, and thus they afford access to the most distant tribes, who would otherwise be unapproachable. Some of these rivers are powerful and rapid, such as the Rejang river.

The timber of Sarawak, especially in the south, is boundless in quantity; valuable woods of many descriptions abound, and are generally used in native house building, and for other purposes. Good shingles are made in Sarawak from an almost indestructible wood named "bilian," and brick making is carried on to some extent in the neighbourhood of Kuching.

Sarawak is rich in minerals. In common with many other parts of Borneo it possesses valuable coal mines. In one portion of the territory an expert sent out from England calculated that a supply existed in one spot of more than 4,000,000 of tons, not difficult of access. A small mine is now worked at a trifling cost by the Government in the Sadong district, and sufficient is obtained from it to supply the three Government steamers, and to leave a surplus, the sale of which about recoups the Government its working expenditure.

Quicksilver has been worked in various places and undoubtedly

considerable quantities yet exist. Antimony has been found and worked by the Borneo Company in large amounts, and at great profit. Gold exists in small quantities, and is principally washed by Chinese; it would probably not repay European labour. The same may be said of diamonds; they are not numerous, but I have seen some good specimens.

Copper, manganese, and plumbago have also been discovered in Sarawak, but not yet in sufficient quantity to warrant their being worked.

The aspect of the country, especially in the south, is beautiful. The landscape in the neighbourhood of the Matang and Santubong ranges, in the vicinity of Kuching, are particularly striking and romantic. The flora is numerous and interesting, and magnificent orchids abound. The fauna of Sarawak is varied and extensive, and has been worked from time to time; but there is doubtless much to be done yet. In common with the rest of the forests of the island of Borneo, it is the chosen home of the "mias," or orang outang, of which two species exist.

The climate is wet, 182 inches of rain having fallen in 1876. It, nevertheless, appears to be fairly healthy for Europeans, who all seemed to be in good health and spirits during my stay there. The average temperature is rather higher than that of Labuan, and may be stated at about 85° Fahrenheit. In the mountains a sensible diminution is perceptible.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The position and prospects of Sarawak cannot fail to be of considerable interest to Englishmen. It is not too much to say that Sarawak presents one of the few remaining chances of existence to the enervated and indolent race of Malays. Under such a government, which appears to strive to impress them with a sense of their duty to the state, as well as with a feeling of self-respect, by inducing and encouraging them to take an active part in the administration of public affairs, the Malays of Sarawak ought to prosper; and they have, moreover, continually before their eyes the example of the misgovernment and anarchy existing in the wretched kingdom of Borneo Proper, which is apparently hastening to ruin and decay. The comparison between Brunei and Sarawak cannot but be gratifying to the inhabitants of the latter; and if any spark of pride and energy yet lingers in the breasts of this once powerful people of Brunei, the reflection upon their misgovernment and apathy, plainly forced upon them by the aspect of the prosperity of Sarawak, when compared with the decadence of Brunei, should stimulate the latter to some attempt at reviving their ancient prestige. But I fear that nothing will now arrest the general decay and ruin sensibly attendant on the Malay races of the Peninsula and Archipelago. To their inherent vices of sensuality, rapacity, and indolence, the yench of Brunei, and doubtless of other Malay countries, are superadding the deadening effects of opium; and the action of this drug, injurious as it probably is to the active minded and industrious Chinese, must in time prove positively fatal to the enfeebled and nerveless constitutions of the modern Malays.

The policy of the Sarawak Government appears to me to be just and equitable toward the native Dyak and other races. It may fairly be assumed to be so, if we take as a test the fact that extensive tribes of savages have been transmuted from lawless head-hunters and pirates into comparatively peaceful agriculturists. The crime of head-hunting is now scarcely known in Sarawak. Indeed, I regret to state that it

appears to be more common in the territories of his Highness the Sultan than elsewhere, and so bold did I find these gentry on my arrival in Labuan, that two cases were absolutely before me of head taking within the British colony of Labuan itself, where a panic on that account had existed for some time. The same remarks apply to the crime of piracy, a pet offence with the old marauders, and a venial one in their eyes. What little piracy exists on the western coasts of Borneo is not to be found within the dominions or seaboard of Sarawak. It is rather to be looked for in the territories on the north-west coasts of Brunei, again partially within the nominal jurisdiction of the Sultan; and to a greater extent on the north-east coast.

There are doubtless to be found in the rule of Sarawak many defects, some of which might be at once amended, others again that time only can efface. In criticizing severely any special legislation or custom at present obtaining within the country, it would be necessary that all the attendant circumstances should be thoroughly elucidated and considered, before arriving at a sweeping and condemnatory judgment upon matters which, to the eyes of the most civilized colonists in the world, appear anomalous or even wrong. Sarawak is yet not forty years old, and has time before her to amend and improve any defects of government. As long as the main objects constituting the welfare of the community be kept in view, and the people are generally contented and happy, the objections to which I have referred can practically have but small weight in the balance.

One of the principal recommendations attaching in the eyes of the native to European rule in Sarawak is the honesty of its administration, especially in pecuniary matters. The object of the Malay nobles in olden times, and, indeed, now in the territories of Brunei, was to squeeze as much as might be from the wretched aborigines; the principal aim of the European appears to them to be, to solve the problem of how to carry on an effective Government at the lightest possible cost to its subjects. This difficulty has met with a creditable solution in Sarawak; a taxation of about 40,000*l.* per annum, distributed amongst a population of 200,000 souls, and giving a statistical average of from 5*s.* to 6*s.* sterling per head, can scarcely be called oppressive. (In calculating this average, I strike out about 50,000 frontier natives, who probably escape paying taxes at all.) Another recommendation in the eyes of the native is the possibility of obtaining even-handed, if rough, justice. It is not necessary, as they see and admit with satisfaction, that litigants should enter into a pecuniary competition with their opponents to purchase the favour and countenance of their judges.

Education and progress will safely and surely eradicate many of the evils remaining in the State, which may be viewed as legacies, fortunately diminishing, of a barbarous *régime* long since extinct. In the meantime natives, Mahomedan as well as Pagan, will be best managed and improved by showing a proper degree of respect for their usages and customs, especially by a complete tolerance of their forms of worship; and the only real blot in Sarawak, that of slavery (although existing in a modified form), may be trusted to die out with the gradual extension of European rule, and the increased intelligence of the coming generation.

The occasions requiring the employment of armed force are becoming rare, and disturbances are strictly local.

The real power of Sarawak is based upon the remembrance of and gratitude due to the late Raja, Sir James Brooke, as well as upon the firm administration and even-handed justice of the present Government. No one visiting Sarawak can fail to observe the respect and affection in

which the present Raja and his family are held by the entire community. The fact is as noticeable among Europeans as among the natives; and I may observe that the moderately paid but fairly efficient European staff is socially on a par with the officials of the generality of our colonies. The mode of life amongst the European body is quiet and unostentatious, but of hospitality there is abundance, and no visitor leaves Sarawak without pleasant reminiscences of his stay.

A further noteworthy feature is to be found in the results obtained with so little money. The civil list of the Raja is, I know, modest in all respects; and it is not every Government that on a yearly revenue of 40,000*l.* sterling, would be enabled effectively to rule 25,000 square miles of territory, with a population of over 200,000 souls, to keep up a respectable standing military force, to garrison and maintain fourteen forts, to pay a competent staff of European officers and native authorities, to maintain three gunboats, to protect commerce and agriculture, and generally to guarantee safety to life and property within its limits.

Sarawak is on good terms with its Dutch neighbours, who have lately by vigorous measures repressed and put an end to the disturbances caused by their frontier Dyaks of Kapuas.

In conclusion, I may observe, that although *de facto* and, as he contends, I believe, *de jure* absolute ruler of Sarawak, the Raja clings to his English nationality; and "British interests," to use his own words, "are paramount" within his dominions. In spite of the anomaly of his position, this fertile country should only be looked upon as an item of the great colonial empire of Great Britain, and, I trust, as virtually under her shield and protection.

I append a list of printed instructions for young officers from the Raja.

They appear to be wise and practical, and offer an indication of the spirit in which the Government of Sarawak is carried on.

HINTS to Young Outstation Officers from the Raja.

AN officer to be efficient must have regularity in his habits, and to possess this he should tie himself down to do things at stated times and intervals. He should never give an order for anything to be done except he sees that his order is properly carried into effect. No outstation in the country is so extensive that it cannot be guided and governed by one man who possesses an active mind combined with discipline or regularity. Such an one cannot only superintend all things pertaining to public interest, but devote a certain amount of time to social and friendly intercourse with those he has to govern, and this is necessary in order to obtain some knowledge of the character of the people. He can do all this, and yet find plenty of spare time for leisure or study, and would enjoy the latter the more by keeping his mind in a state of discipline. Such occupations also tend to preserve health.

Portmen.—Men entered to take service should be free men and not slaves or debtors—and so far as can be ascertained, bear an honest character. The recruits should go through some kind of drill, even to make them hold themselves upright and march up and down when on duty. To keep themselves clean is something towards making soldiers of them. They must be made to obey with alacrity and be useful. If other good men are over and with them it will not be long before they show whether they are good for anything. Besides their watches they should turn out at seven o'clock every morning and do at least one hour's work in clearing or cutting grass, or in other ways making the grounds tidy.

Arms.—Besides a regular inspection once a week, an officer, if he has an eye practised to see things in order, could never walk through or enter his fort without observing if anything was out of place—a trial of a lock or two, and a feel with the finger in the muzzle to see if rust exists, will show him the state of the arms. An officer who has not been brought up to manage arms can soon put himself in the way of becoming accustomed to them, by trying a few experiments. Seeing how others use them will teach him something. Seeking information and facing difficulties till they are mastered is the only road to efficiency in every profession. Everything to the smallest item should be in eye of an officer. Arms, number and kind, ammunition, cartridges big and small, shot, shell, caps, wads, rammers and sponges, priming wires and horns, vent lists, &c. How stowed. How to be got at quickly. Safe from fire. Properly arranged. There should be a regular inspection of all these things once a week, the officer examining for himself and not trusting to the reports of others.

Some difficulties may arise at times in obtaining supplies from Kuching, there would, however, be no difficulty in making good the deficiencies, if there were a stock of fine and coarse grained powder, a bullet mould, and some lead. Native fortmen can make as good small arm cartridges as those supplied from Kuching. The charges for big guns can be put into blachii bags—made the size of the bore of the gun. Wads can be twisted into grummets, the size of the different bores, of rattan, or “akar,” as good as rope. Torches can be made of the sheath of coconut blossom, or old Manila rope, well dried coconut husk, or many barks of trees. The length of any dispart is one-sixth the difference between the circumference of the base and centre rings—on the latter the dispart is placed, a temporary one of wood, or wax tied or stuck on will prove as true as the best.

One-fifth, or even the sixth, of the weight of the shot is used as the weight of an ordinary charge, with light brass guns even less will be found sufficient in firing round shot. Swivels and light guns are apt to kick dangerously when overcharged. In loading big guns, the captain of the gun should always stop the vent—and the man who sponges should do it by turning it round quickly three or four times, well forced into the base of the gun. In running home the charge, the loader should only leave his arms and never his body exposed before the muzzle of the gun, and, after striking it sharply twice, should spring back, while the captain pricks the charge with the priming wire to find out whether it is home, if so, the shot is then forced in with a wad on it, to keep it from rolling from its place. The wad should fit tight, as if the shot gets misplaced it is apt to burst the gun. In marching or walking with natives who are carrying loaded muskets, it is very difficult to make them understand that it is necessary to keep their arms at half cock. An officer had better see that they do this, or keep out of the way himself, as there is almost as much danger in letting the hammer rest on the nipple with a cap as carrying it on full cock.

On Cleanliness.—It is a mistaken idea that natives who are fortmen can't be taught to keep a place clean and tidy. After the necessity of this is pointed out to them for a short time, they will see to doing it, as well as any Europeans, who also require to be taught at first in a similar way. It cannot be too carefully attended to, as it looks well to visitors, and is a good example to the whole country. An officer has little pride who allows any untidiness, however mean his habitation may be. Morning and afternoon sweeping of every part is necessary. A brushing away of cobwebs, and the floor kept clear of oil spots and other dirt.

On Watching.—The men who watch should be kept from sitting down,—if they are once allowed to do this they become slovenly, will soon lie down, and sleep will be the result. The best and surest test of a good watch is to hear the steps of a sentry as he marches day or night. If these are silent ten to one if he is not asleep, or at any rate not watching. Portmen, especially new ones, are very liable to be insolent in their bearing to the inhabitants of the country, and sometimes hail boats to stop them for amusement or for private purposes—such as to buy fish, sirih, or fruit; such anomalies must be prevented or the fort gets a bad name, and is looked upon more as a hindrance than a benefit. The people will hold themselves aloof, through fear of being insulted, and the use of such a building as a centre point, where all parties can bring their complaints and seek protection, is lost. The fort, or officer of the fort, must make the rules obeyed, and in doing so he may often, or sometimes, have to resort to severe measures, such as firing on a passing and suspicious looking boat, or apprehending troublesome characters—but this is only in accordance with his duty, and can be understood as such by all parties. It will only tend to make him respected, and not in any way bring about discontent, or a bad name.

Four muskets, or rifles, should always be kept ready loaded and capped—and discharged once a week. More than four only when the country is in a disturbed state.

Cash and Revenue.—Any transaction which has to do with money must necessarily be of importance, more especially when the money is not the individual's own property.

One of the most important branches of duty connected with an outstation is that proper supervision be kept on the Revenue and Treasury departments, and if these are not properly attended to an officer is far from having his charge in an efficient state. If one part be faulty, however trivial, it more or less affects the whole.

Outstation cash and revenue business is of so simple a character that any one, who has no knowledge of methodical bookkeeping and double entries, can keep all straight and clear if he pays proper attention to it.

There never can be any excuse for extravagance nor forgetfulness in monetary concerns—twenty minutes a day of supervision, or two hours a week, or eight hours a month would prevent mistakes arising. The above times given could enable one to examine everything, to see wages and bills paid, and if necessary, to copy out accounts or cash statements. However much an officer may be called away on other services he can always spare eight hours a month in attending to so important a duty, and no officer is fit to hold any post of importance unless he does so.

General Remarks.—Proper deference should always be shown to the chiefs of whatever class they may be, and in any case of difficulty, more especially when an officer feels he has not sufficient experience to decide with safety, and even oftentimes in trivial affairs, it is as well to ask the advice and opinion of the head men; it satisfies them and strengthens you, and a great object is to throw as much responsibility on the shoulders of the native chiefs as possible.

You are not obliged in all cases to follow their advice, but the fact of asking it is a compliment to them, and gives them an interest in what is being done by the Government. There is no doubt, when uninfluenced by prejudice and relationship, the decisions of natives are very sound and sensible. Europeans too often given them credit for knowing too little; this is a mistake, and a man should never be above taking advice, however old he may be, and when in a strange country it

is trebly necessary and useful. In every day concerns—junglo walking—marks denoting danger from traps and animals—management of boats in river or on coast—judging the state of weather—and in many other ways, the knowledge of natives must necessarily be superior to an European.

There are certain personal dangers to be avoided by those who have to occupy positions of trust when young, who are thrown much on their own resources and hold authority over others without the check of senior officers and public opinion always immediately over them. The danger is, in allowing any relapse of right principle, or sense of duty, which an English gentleman is supposed to have instilled into him from childhood. Also the avoidance of becoming overbearing and despotic when left so much with subservient natives. This topic might be much enlarged upon, but anyone can think it out best for himself, and will come to the conclusion that the manner of life in this country should not be different from what it would be in England.

Manner with Natives.—The best manner in the long run with natives is to be thoroughly natural and in no way patronising. A mixture of kindness and freedom, with severity when required, without harshness or bullying. Joking to be limited to the comprehensions of the people; if they cannot understand a joke they are liable to misinterpret and gather wrong impressions. Never put natives on a familiar footing. They hold their position in society and you yours. They are not inferior but they are different.

Always be guarded against giving way to sentimental likings for particular natives in calling them by familiar terms, and admitting them into intimate friend or relationship. They cannot understand or appreciate this behaviour, and in the end will dislike it. It injures and often ruins them, as a petted horse is spoiled. An officer who tries such an experiment with the best intontion, and in the hope that it will raise the tone of the native, labours under a mistake, and will lose influence by such acts of misplaced kindness. An officer on duty, as one is in an outstation, is not as a private individual who can do as he likes. He should recollect that he is in harness, and that to hold himself steadily at the collar determines not only his future but the future of the community among whom he lives. Nothing artificial or extraneous in the shape of gilt or tinsel will help to gain the confidence of the natives. They are too matter-of-fact and only admire and respect strength in its entirety.

An officer working for the general good in his profession with a healthy tone of mind and body, doing his duties with earnestness, strength of purpose, and tact, is marked, and leaves an impression on the multitude; a reality is one thing, a shadow another—and by the sum total of his many acts the result is shown to be sound or otherwise.

COMPARATIVE Revenue Returns.

	1871.		1870.	
	Dol.	c.	Dols.	c.
Farms—				
Opium	42,800	00	46,300	00
Gambling	12,402	50	13,338	00
Arrack	7,601	50	5,703	72
Pawn	452	00	800	00
Antimony royalty	16,051	10	8,888	88
Quicksilver „	4,444	44	4,444	44
Exemption tax	19,500	00	19,343	70
Dyak revenue	11,650	00	21,338	23
Import duties—				
Tobacco tax	4,320	00	6,033	00
Salt „	2,850	00	5,402	00
Excise „	530	00	..	..
Matches „	54	00	522	00
Spirits „	..	..	441	00
Jars, steel, &c.	..	..	1,538	00
Guns	..	..	226	00
Export duties—				
Sago tax	135	00	5,200	00
Gutta	..	..	2,950	00
Camphor	..	..	300	00
Biliun	..	..	1,898	00
Beeswax	..	..	130	00
Birds' nests	..	..	120	00
Rattan	..	..	1,990	00
Guliga	..	..	17	00
Miscellaneous	34,702	00	36,199	00
Total	157,501	54	183,182	97

TRADE Returns for 1871-76.

IMPORTS—FOREIGN.

Articles.					1871.	1876.
					Dol.	Dol.
Treasure	..	..	..	..	113,337	94,985
Gutta percha.	..	..	..	..	7,260	722
Rice	..	..	..	..	89,699	129,601
Gold	..	..	..	..	2,369	1,527
Cloth	..	..	..	..	212,359	250,165
Brass ware	..	..	..	..	23,260	18,108
Fish	..	..	..	..	8,335	14,466
Opium	..	..	..	..	15,358	34,820
Tobacco	..	..	..	..	52,928	52,467
Tea ..	..	..	..	..	2,617	3,101
Wines	..	..	..	..	10,531	7,874
Sugar	..	..	..	..	12,305	11,491
Jars ..	..	..	..	..	15,571	8,417
Iron ware	..	..	..	..	20,263	32,802
Crockery ware	..	..	..	..	18,318	7,236
Cocoanuts	..	..	..	..	19,868	14,978
„ oil	..	..	..	..	20,901	25,813
Salt ..	..	..	..	..	11,125	10,612
Gunnies	..	..	..	..	6,200	8,621
Paddy	..	..	..	..	280	1,715
Bêche de mer	..	..	..	..	200	3,110
Raw sago	..	..	..	..	673	3,033
Birds' nests	..	..	..	..	240	580
Sundries	..	..	..	..	116,481	108,884
Total	..	..	..	..	780,368	845,128

IMPORTS—COASTING.

Articles.					1871.	1876.
					Dol.	Dol.
Treasure	..	..	..	..	114,847	85,912
Gutta percha	..	..	..	..	136,483	50,391
India rubber	..	..	..	..	96,930	32,674
Bee-wax	..	..	..	..	17,795	4,849
Birds' nests	..	..	..	..	13,686	7,339
Rice	..	..	..	..	24,665	10,536
Paddy	..	..	..	..	10,292	3,871
Raw sago	..	..	..	..	130,743	174,131
Rattans	..	..	..	..	639	7,867
Gold	..	..	..	..	4,048	5,748
Timber	..	..	..	..	2,673	2,365
Cattle	..	..	..	..	500	289
Sago flour	..	..	..	..	26,993	900
Camphor	..	..	..	..	8,860	22,554
Fish maws	..	..	..	..	614	516
„ fins	..	..	..	..	68	261
Damar	..	..	..	..	1,209	459
Galiga	..	..	..	..	1,374	1,183
Canes	..	..	..	..	6,260	62
Vegetable tallow	..	..	..	..	..	1,987
Fish	..	..	..	..	90	17,898
Coal	..	..	..	..	..	5,335
Sundries	..	..	..	..	48,786	35,410
					647,555	472,537
Add foreign	..	..	..	..	780,368	845,128
Total	..	..	..	..	1,427,923	1,317,665

EXPORTS—FOREIGN.

Articles.					1871.	1876.
					Dol.	Dol.
Treasure	..	..	..	..	109,532	64,487
Cloth	..	..	..	..	23,103	10,975
Tobacco	..	..	..	..	2,690	4,365
Brass ware	..	..	..	..	2,631	4,512
Fish	..	..	..	..	7,364	26,366
Rice	..	..	..	..	20,622	20,226
Paddy	..	..	..	..	3,570	2,317
Sugar	..	..	..	..	1,849	1,137
Cocoanuts	..	..	..	..	936	327
„ oil	..	..	..	..	1,215	2,714
Gold	..	..	..	..	4,962	2,749
Timber	..	..	..	..	635	35,220
Sago flour	..	..	..	..	164,935	313,559
Diamonds	..	..	..	..	1,085	4,130
Beeswax	..	..	..	..	19,621	7,675
Gutta percha	..	..	..	..	132,694	75,558
Damar	..	..	..	..	4,024	6,934
India rubber	..	..	..	..	99,948	41,402
Birds' nests	..	..	..	..	32,200	22,651
Fish maws	..	..	..	..	6,027	2,777
„ fins	..	..	..	..	837	1,965
Quicksilver	..	..	..	..	24,992	108,050
Antimony	..	..	..	..	51,690	45,958
Canes	..	..	..	..	6,332	1,088
Rattans	..	..	..	..	769	47,301
Camphor	..	..	..	..	3,920	11,221
Raw sago	..	..	..	..	11,752	20,781
Bêche de mer	..	..	..	..	2,295	3,390
Sundries	..	..	..	..	26,706	40,677
Total	..	..	..	..	769,026	930,542

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